

to that visit. It is a great honor to be in his presence. He's a great man.

**Mr. Borrelli.** Thank you, Mr. President.

**The President.** Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The interview was taped at 1:33 p.m. in the Map Room at the White House for later broadcast. Mr. Borrelli referred to President Jacques Chirac of France. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

### Remarks Honoring NCAA Champion Teams

May 21, 2002

**The President.** Welcome. Please be seated. It's a beautiful day to welcome a bunch of champs to the White House. I want to welcome you all; I want to welcome the teams. Thanks for coming.

Thank you, Senators, for being here. I see Senator Dodd, Dayton. I—Senator Lieberman's on his way; I know that for a fact. I want to thank my friend Johnny Rowland, the Governor of Connecticut, here. He told me, he said, "The Connecticut women's basketball team is pretty good this year." I said, "Oh, yeah?" He said, "No, they're real good." And I said, "Well, how good?" He said, "They're going to go undefeated." I said, "Sure, Governor." Thanks for making me look bad, Johnny. *[Laughter]*

Senator Wellstone, thanks for coming as well, honored you're here.

I want to thank the representatives from the universities. My good friend Mark Yudof is here from the University of Minnesota. I want to thank Don Lucia as well, the head coach of the men's hockey team. I want to congratulate the Minnesota team; you won it in dramatic fashion. And you had to let down your—change your immigration laws to allow somebody from North Dakota to come in to score. *[Laughter]* But it was a great victory.

I want to thank Kathryn Martin and Shannon Miller from the University of Minnesota-Duluth women's hockey team for coming back again. It is a repeat performance by a great group of athletes. I want to congratulate you all for winning it two years in a row.

I want to thank and welcome Geno Aurinuma—is that right?

**Mr. Auriemma.** Auriemma.

**The President.** Auriemma. Okay, fine. *[Laughter]* I've never been too good in English. *[Laughter]* But he's a heck of a coach, however he says his name. *[Laughter]*

I want to congratulate the UConn women's basketball team for an unbelievable season. It—what great athletes, and they were really fun to watch.

And then, much to the delight of thousands of people around here, and many who work upstairs in the White House, the mighty Terps of Maryland are the NCAA champions. I want to congratulate Dan Mote, the president, and Gary Williams, the coach. You guys need to know that there was a lot of people that were stepping a little lighter in my family, as well as who work in this compound, when you won. It was a great feat in an unbelievably tough field. And so congratulations to you all.

You've now got a—you showed some things that I think are important for our country, particularly at this time, that if you serve something greater than yourself, called a team, you can achieve great things. If you recognize that life is more than just an individual record, that if you recognize there are—something bigger than an individual accomplishment, you can win. You can win in a broader sense. And to me, that's what these championships mean.

It's kind of what our country has got to do as well. If we serve something greater than materialism or self-absorption, we can do some great things as a country. Starting with loving our neighbor like we'd like to be loved ourselves, making sure the country is as hopeful and promising as it can possibly be.

As well as the result of being champs—I mean big-time champs—you've now got a lot of people looking at you, a lot of kids wondering, how does a champ behave? What does a champ do when they win the crown? It's a great opportunity to set an example for other people, to help people understand they're responsible for the decisions they make in life. You have that chance right now as a champ.

You've been champs on the field and on the courts and on the rinks. Now you can

be champs off, and do your country a great service.

It's my honor to welcome you all here. I love championship day at the White House. I love to be around success. I hope you cherish these memories in winning these great championships for a long time coming and use them as an opportunity to work to make your Nation the best it can possibly be.

May God bless your talents, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mark Yudof, president, and Don Lucia, head men's ice hockey coach, University of Minnesota; Kathryn Martin, chancellor, and Shannon Miller, head women's ice hockey coach, University of Minnesota-Duluth; Geno Auriemma, head women's basketball coach, University of Connecticut; and Dan Mote, president, and Gary Williams, head men's basketball coach, University of Maryland. The President honored the University of Connecticut's women's basketball team, the University of Maryland's men's basketball team, the University of Minnesota's men's ice hockey team, and the University of Minnesota-Duluth's women's ice hockey team.

### **Statement on the Peace Process in Sudan**

*May 21, 2002*

Senator Danforth has made considerable progress in helping to bring both sides in Sudan's peace process closer to the negotiating table. I am grateful for Senator Danforth's efforts, and I have asked him to continue to serve as my envoy. The road ahead will be difficult. Lives continue to be lost, and conditions for the people of Sudan are hard.

Achieving peace will require verifiable action by both sides. We must see deeds, not just words. The Government of Sudan cannot make empty promises while continuing to wage war against its own people. It must stop interfering with food deliveries. It must stop attacking civilians. It must honor fully its commitments to Senator Danforth. It must accept that it cannot win the war. It must seek peace.

The United States is committed to helping the aggrieved people of the Sudan. We will continue to urge the parties toward peace

at the talks in Kenya. To achieve a lasting and just peace, all parties at the talks must make every effort to ensure the discussions are a success.

### **Statement on the Establishment of East Timor**

*May 21, 2002*

The United States salutes the establishment of East Timor, the first new nation of the millennium. With those in Dili, we celebrate the successful conclusion of the long struggle of the people of East Timor for an independent nation. We are heartened that the people of East Timor have embraced the path of democracy that will lead their nation to peace and prosperity. On behalf of the American people, I congratulate Xanana Gusmao, who was sworn in as East Timor's first President.

The United Nations has played a pivotal role in bringing East Timor into the family of nations. We praise the contributions and efforts of the international community which helped make the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor a success.

### **Proclamation 7565—National Maritime Day, 2002**

*May 21, 2002*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

Our commercial maritime tradition dates back to the founding of our Nation; and it continues to play an important role today, moving passengers and freight, protecting our freedom, and linking our citizens to the world.

Merchant mariners have served America with distinction throughout our history, but especially at critical moments. Before World War II, they made dangerous and difficult voyages carrying vital supplies to Europe. During that war, more than 700 United States merchant ships were lost to attack, and more than 6,000 merchant mariners lost their lives. Merchant mariners played a vital role